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was their original text? Shall we lay all the fault of variations on the original writers? or shall we attribute it to late copyists? How many of them were unintentional? and how many were deliberate, if not systematic? Because two texts apparently contradict each other are we to charge the same to the sources of those texts? or to the carelessness or ignorance of the compilers? or to our ignorance of the complete background of the narrative?

Again, if the compilers of Kings and Chronicles made use of various documents usually referred to in preparing their history, how far may we infer that other books were made up on the same plan? Is it certain that some compilers did not quote their sources, but simply patched their work together without much order or consistency? These are some of the numerous questions which crowd in upon the reader of this little book. The textual notes at the bottom of the page are a good feature, but those who would use them are as a rule students who would prefer to make comparison of Hebrew texts. The volume is supplied with an index of texts for ready reference. One feature, however, of the bound volume cannot be too severely censured. It is an imposition on the book-buying public for publishers to insert more than a few pages of advertisements in the back of their books. But here the Clarendon Press has insulted the goodwill and forbearance of its patrons by inserting and binding in with 204 pages of permanently valuable material, just *seventy-six* pages of book catalogue. Every buyer of this volume must either mar his book by tearing out the catalogue, or else carry on his shelves these seventy-six pages of room-taking trash. This method carried on by several English book-houses cannot be too sharply criticised.

PRICE.

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**How to Read the Prophets:** Being the Prophecies arranged chronologically in their historical Setting, with Explanations and Glossary. By the REV. BUCHANAN BLAKE, B.D. Part V. Isaiah (xl-lxvi) and the post-Exilian Prophets. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark; New York: Charles Scribner's Sons; Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. 1895. Pages, 246. Price \$1.50.

With this volume Mr. Blake concludes his series of "How to Read the Prophets" in chronological order. This part contains Isaiah xl.-lxvi., Daniel Haggai, Zechariah i.-viii. and Malachi. They are treated uniformly with the former volumes of the series, viz., first, the text, in the author's translation, arranged in chronological order; secondly, the historical setting of the same texts, with running explanations. New or difficult words are printed in heavy-faced type, which is a finger-point to a glossary at the end of the book, where all such puzzles are explained. In the arrangement of the text, the author gives no arguments for the positions which he takes. But as he is writing for laymen his word is supposed to be taken as final. It is quite as necessary for

intelligent laymen, in America at least, as for the large number of ministers, to know the reasons for the variations and innovations of the author. Lack of space is no sufficient excuse, as a few footnotes in fine print could mention every valid argument for the new positions taken. Isaiah xl.-lxvi. is located in the exile without reserve. Sections regarded by Smith (G. A.) and others as pre-exilic, and by Cheyne as post-exilic, are indiscriminately placed in this period. He locates in his chronological order Isaiah 54 before 53. He cannot forbear, in his narrative treatment, the temptation occasionally to moralize (*cf.* pp. 155 and 219) on the text under discussion. The Book of Daniel, 1-6, while describing events in Daniel's day did not originate, he *thinks* (does not know it), p. 159, until about 168-164 B.C. Daniel, says he, is not among the prophets in the Jewish Canon (p. 160). But what is the Jewish Canon, and how far back does it reach into the past? The Septuagint, worth infinitely more than mere tradition, names Daniel immediately in connection with Ezekiel. On p. 161 he seems to be in doubt about the date of the first captivity, though he has just read Dan. 1:1. We also note that the second kingdom is the Median (p. 216) though the school which Mr. Blake follows in his interpretation has no room for Darius the Mede. On p. 223 we find a piece of jugglery with figures, perfectly innocent in itself, but of no value in the interpretation of Daniel. On the whole the work will prove to be of value to readers who have made a careful study of the prophets. It must be used, however, with caution. PRICE.

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**The Book of Psalms** (Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges) with Introduction and Notes. By A. F. KIRKPATRICK, D.D., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge; Regius Professor of Hebrew. Books II. and III. Psalms xlii.-lxxxix. Cambridge: University Press; New York: Macmillan & Co. 1895. Pages lxxx + 223-556. Price \$1.00.

The first thing that meets the reader's eye is the same Introduction that appeared in Vol. I. of this series. Quite a good production, but *one* copy of it is enough, or all that most readers can afford to give shelf-room. Will volume III. contain the same? We hope not. Then when we turn to the exposition proper we find the pagination continuous from Vol. I. What does this mean? The volumes each independent books and still dependent! These irregularities are confusing to the student. The matter of this exposition gives evidences of careful investigation by the author. By tests here and there we can form some idea of his general position. Psalms 44, 74 and 79, which are made Maccabean by those who find any such in the Psalter, are referred by the author to the early dates. He sees that they fit better the early times as we know them, than the later times which we do not know. The superiority of such popular commentaries on the Psalms, as Perowne and Maclaren (Expositors' Bible) set a difficult task before Professor Kirkpatrick. His results will be valuable to laymen who have no other critical work on